1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31	Chandigarh	7	7	Nil	Nil	7.93	August
32	D & N Haveli	3	2	Nil	Nil	0.22	October
33	Daman & Diu						Not Reported
34	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	October
35	Pondicherry	357	49	54	13	15.12	October
	TOTAL	131875	6436	3351	46	15518.47	

* - Except - May

Updated as on 4.12.2009

Fair and remunerative price for sugarcane

2518. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently introduced changes in the sugarcane pricing norms under Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the benefits likely to accrue to farmers who were agitating in this regard;

(c) whether farmers have raised any objections; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial steps Government has taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Central Government had been fixing the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane under the provisions of the Clause 3 of Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 (SCO) having regard to different criteria. The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 has been further amended on 22nd October 2009 by inserting clause (g) which provided for giving reasonable margins to the growers of sugarcane on account of risk and profits. Powers were given to the Central Government to fix a fair and remunerative price (FRP). Accordingly, the FRP payable by sugar mills for 2009-10 sugar season has been fixed at Rs.129.84 per quintal, linked to a basic recovery rate of 9.5% subject to a premium of Rs.1.37 for every Rs. 0.1 percentage point increase in recovery above that level. The FRP fixed at Rs. 129.84 per quintal for 2009-10 sugar season is about 51% higher than the SMP of sugarcane of 2008-09 calculated at 9.5% basic recovery rate.

(c) and (d) There is one representation from farmers' association in this regard. According to the representation and the media reports, there is misapprehension amongst a section of farmers that the FRP is the maximum price of sugarcane above which they are not entitled to get a price for

their cane from the mills. The Government has informed the farmers through clarifications in the press that FRP is a bench-mark price and the price payable will be a negotiated price between the farmers and the mills and will have to be equal to or above the FRP. The same has been conveyed to sugar mills.

It has also been represented that the powers of the State Governments to fix a State Advised Price (SAP) for sugarcane may be allowed to continue and that a 50% margin over the costs to the farmers may be given.

The Central Government has decided to delete the clause 3B in the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.

Negative inflation and rise in prices of essential goods

2519. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of negative inflation, the prices of essential commodities have gone up substantially over the past one year;

(b) whether there is a huge difference between wholesale and retail prices;

(c) if so, the rate of increase in prices of cereals, pulses, salt, fruits and vegetables during the past one year and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reduce the Consumer Price Index to protect the poor and the economically weak from such high prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The All India average wholesale prices has increased in the case of rice by 8.83%, wheat by 13.24%, Pulses such as Tur dal by 65.83%, Gram by 1.83%, Salt by 14.20%, Potato by 115.44 % and Onion by 54.52% respectively over the past one year.

The increase in prices of the rice and wheat can be attributed partly due to the increase in MSP.

Domestic prices of pulses rose mainly on account of the supply-demand mismatch and hardening of international prices.

The increase in price of salt was due to un seasonal and intermittent rains during the September/December 2008 in the salt producing areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan during manufacturing season.

Weather, apart from seasonal factors, may have contributed to increase in prices of vegetables and fruits. Potato prices increased as during 2008-09 potato production was estimated to